

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Allen (U.S. 6,830,358) or Yamuro (U.S. 5,155,669). Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of Newby (U.S. 2005/0024834).

Claims 12, 16-18, 21 and 29 are allowed.

Drawings

It is noted that no Patent Drawing Review (Form PTO-948) was received with the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicant must assume that the drawings are acceptable as filed.

Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-11, 13-15, 19-20 and 22-28, and has amended claims 12 and 29 of this application. It is believed that the amended claims now specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 12, 16-18 and 21 are allowed.

In a conversation with Examiner Cranson, he indicated that claim 29 should have been objected to and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant's amended claim 29 comprises a combination of original claims 1 and 29, thereby redrafting claim 29 in independent form.

Since claims 12, 16-18, 21 and 29 have been indicated as being allowable, no detailed discussion of the cited prior art references is believed to be necessary.

Application No. 10/716,521


Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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